All cases of Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes on railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State Governments.

(d) and (e) There is no provision in the rules for compensation for loss/theft/damage of passengers' luggage/belongings unless a railway official servant has booked the luggage and given a receipt thereof to the passenger or unless it is proved that the loss was due to negligence or misconduct on the part of the railways.

(f) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

However, to **effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways**, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff are also being deployed to escort many trains and on access control duties in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. The following measures have been taken for safety and security of the passengers:-

1. About 2230 Trains are being escorted by Government Railway Police and about 1450 trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force as on date in vulnerable sections.
2. Regular announcements are being made through Public Address System as well as Loud Hailers to educate passengers regarding the menance of drugging and other crimes.
3. Regular co-ordination meeting with GRP/State Police is being held to share intelligence regarding criminals indulging in crime against Railway passengers.
4. Special squads have been constituted to tackle the menace of drugging, crime against women etc. in vulnerable trains and on stations.

Trans-Asian Railway

709. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed the inter-government agreement that envisages a continuous 89,000 km rail link–the Trans Asian Railway–through three corridors;

(b) if so, whether India would become part of the Southern Corridor-only (11,460 km) that starts from China through Myanmar-Bangladesh-India and ultimating at Bulgaria; and

(c) whether Government have initiated action to streamline the security of men and material during transit, quicker and hassle-free immigration check-up and adoption of standard of broad gauge throughout the 11,460 km joumey to avoid transshipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Government of India have signed the Inter-governmental Agreement on Trans Asian Railway. The Agreement defines and lists the railway lines of international importance. It does not divide Trans Asian Railway network into any specific three corridors.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Proposal for Railway division in Kerala

710. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala had submitted resentments after the year 2005 against incorporating the railway stations situated in Kerala as a part of the railway divisions of other States;

(b) if so, the details including the status of above resentment;

(c) whether there is any proposal/suggestion for a railway division with divisional office located at Kerala;

(d) if so, the details including the status of above proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons in detail for not forming a railway division with divisional office located in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Yes, Sir. Apprehensions have been raised by Very Important Persons (VIPs) including the Chief Minister of Kerala over the jurisdiction of proposed Salem Division.

(b) The Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamilnadu have been requested for a joint meeting to solve the issues amicably.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

New Train between Bangalore and Visakhapatnam

711. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a new train between Bangalore and Visakhapatnam *via* Secunderabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railways have not met passenger needs on this Sector connecting three important cities of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(c) what short-term measures will be taken to meet the demand for accommodation on the Bangalore-Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Sector; and

(d) the details of interim steps in this regard?